

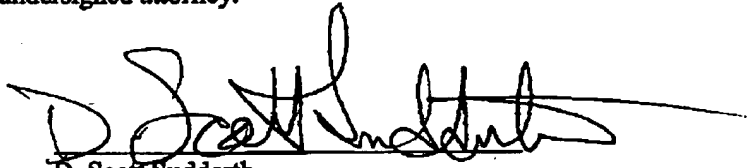
Serial No.: 10/817,020
Amendment Dated: July 1, 2005
In Response to Office Action dated June 15, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8 currently have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as purportedly being anticipated by *Popp* (U.S. Patent No. 4,726,309). Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse the current rejection of claims 1 – 8 in view of *Popp*. However, in the interests of expediting the prosecution of the present application, Applicants have now canceled claims 1 – 8 as currently pending in this application without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicant's pursuit of such claims in any further continuation applications. Accordingly, the claims 9 – 22 now remain pending in this application, which claims have been stated to be allowable in the current Official Action. An early notice of allowance is therefore respectfully requested with respect to currently pending claims 9 – 22.

Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding the present for this application he is invited and urged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Date: 7/1/05


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